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BAT MAN
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"DEATH OF A DAREDEVIL!"

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HERE'S A SECRET SPRING!
HEY! A SECRET CLOSET! LOOK! SUPERMAN'S CLOTHES!
COULD KENT BE SUPERMAN IN DISGUISE?
MY TELESCOPIC VISION TELLS ME SOMEONE'S FOUND MY SPARE COSTUMES!
WAIT TILL THE BOSS SEES THESE SUPERMAN OUTFITS-- CLARK KENT WILL NEVER SCOOP US AGAIN!
LATER...
RIGHT THIS WAY, FOLKS -- NOW JUST LOOK AT WHAT'S IN CLARK KENT'S SECRET CLOSET!
HE'S IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE!
WHAT THE?!?
IT'S FULL OF HOSTESS FRUIT PIES!
I'LL TAKE APPLE!
CHERRY FOR ME!
BLUEBERRY HERE!
BLUEBERRY
APPLE
APPLE
CHERRY
HMM! TASTE THAT DELICIOUS REAL FRUIT FILLING!
AND FLAKY CRUST!
OK, SMART GUY, YOU'RE FIRED!
AW BOSS!
WELL, CLARK, YOU MAY NOT BE SUPERMAN, BUT YOU SURE HAVE SUPER TASTE!
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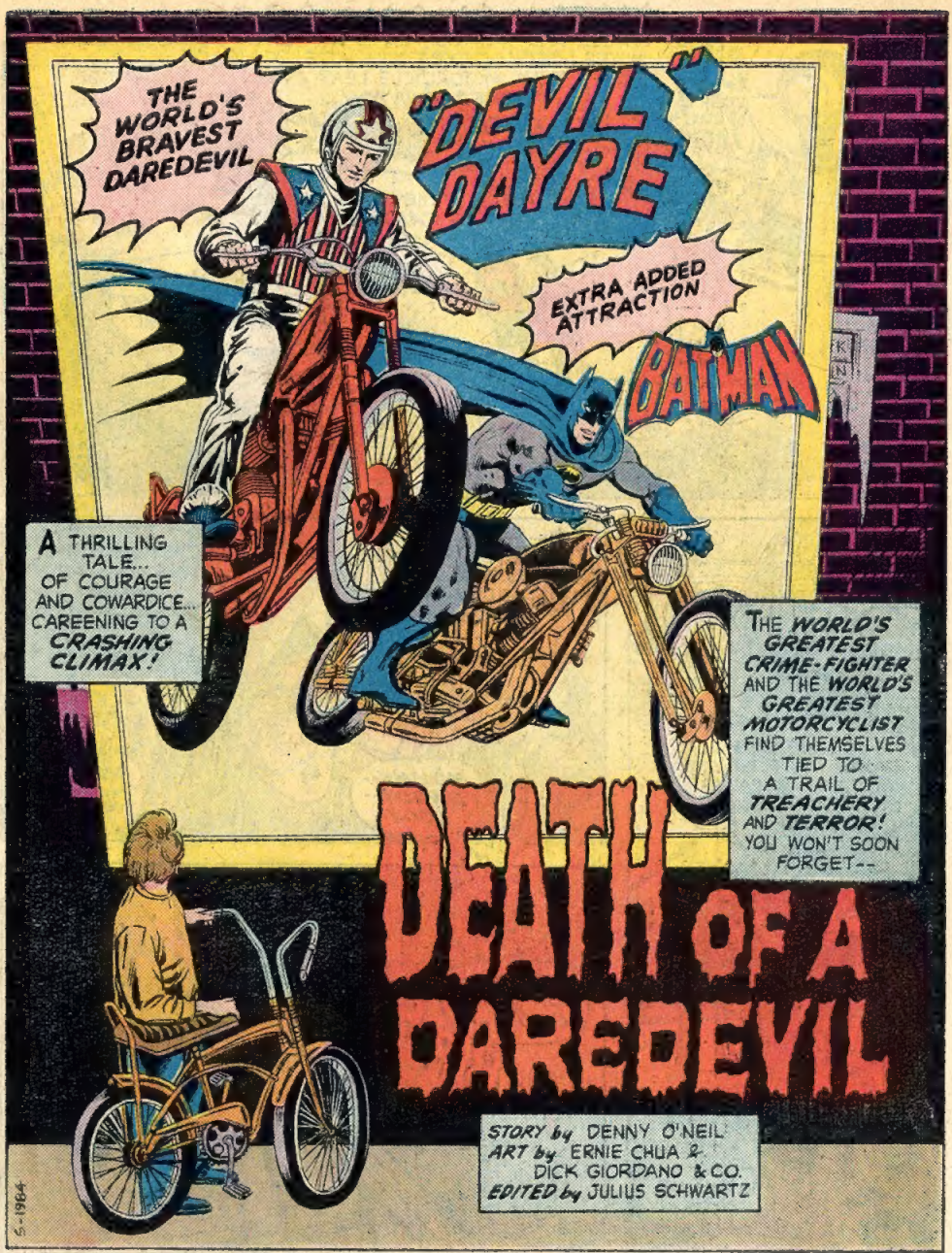
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"DEVIL DAYRE"
EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION
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A THRILLING TALE... OF COURAGE AND COWARDICE... CAREENING TO A CRASHING CLIMAX!
THE WORLD'S GREATEST CRIME-FIGHTER AND THE WORLD'S GREATEST MOTORCYCLIST FIND THEMSELVES TIED TO A TRAIL OF TREACHERY AND TERROR! YOU WON'T SOON FORGET--
DEATH OF A DAREDEVIL
STORY by DENNY O'NEIL
ART by ERNIE CHUA & DICK GIORDANO & CO.
EDITED by JULIUS SCHWARTZ
5-1964

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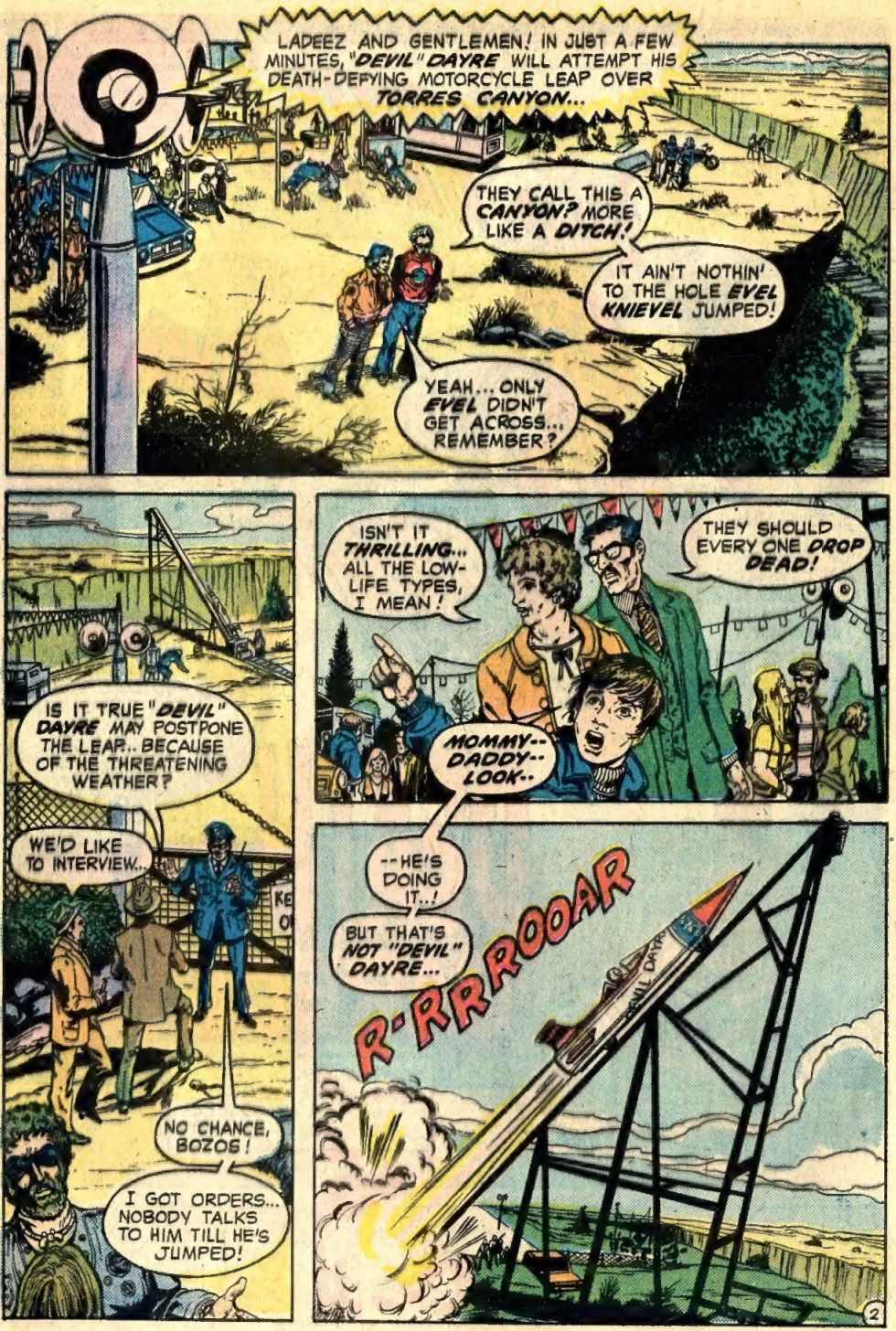
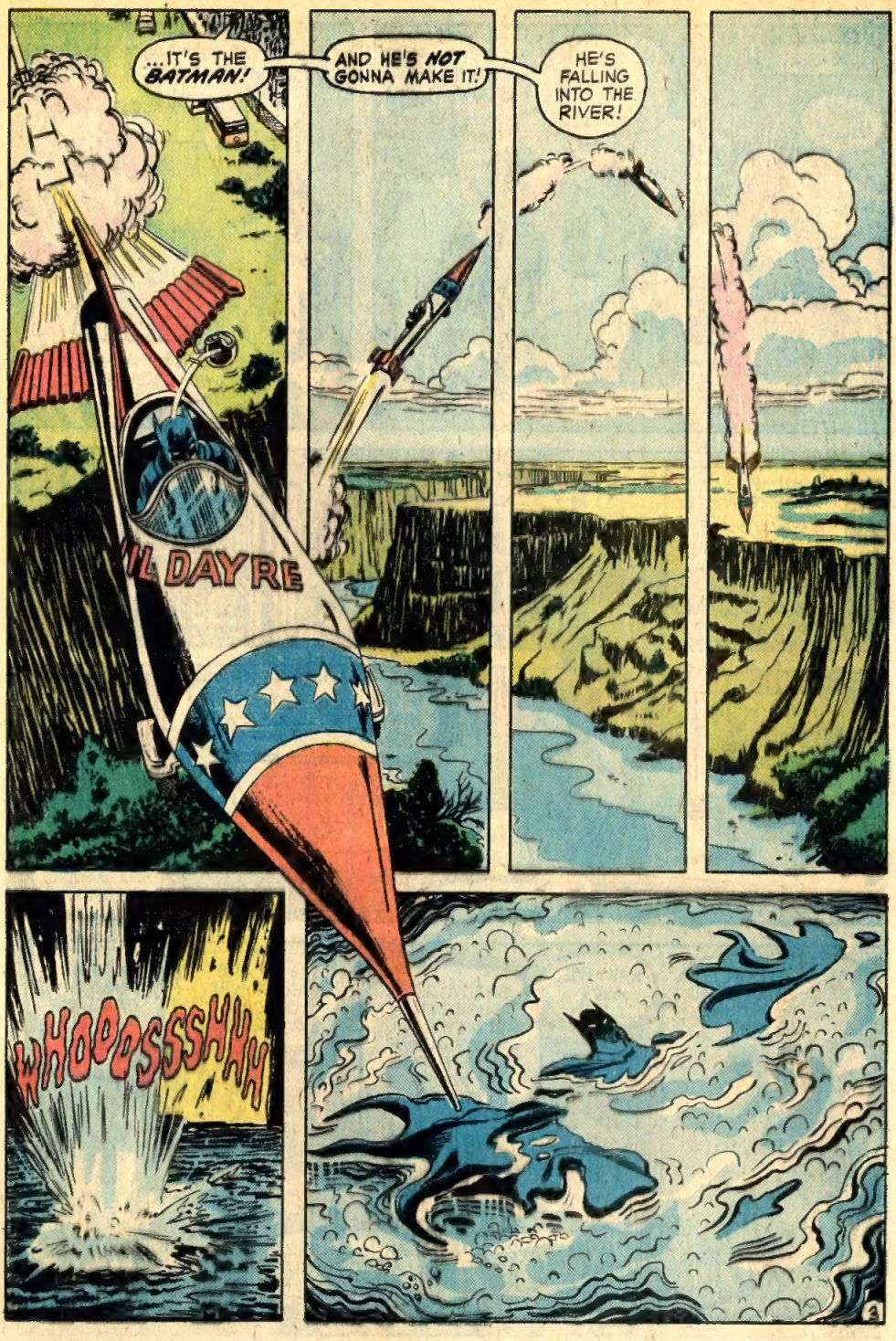

LADEEZ AND GENTLEMEN! IN JUST A FEW MINUTES, "DEVIL" DAYRE WILL ATTEMPT HIS DEATH-DEFYING MOTORCYCLE LEAP OVER TORRES CANYON...
THEY CALL THIS A CANYON? MORE LIKE A DITCH!
IT AIN'T NOTHIN' TO THE HOLE EVEL KNIEVEL JUMPED!
YEAH... ONLY EVEL DIDN'T GET ACROSS... REMEMBER?
IS IT TRUE "DEVIL" DAYRE MAY POSTPONE THE LEAP.. BECAUSE OF THE THREATENING WEATHER?
WE'D LIKE TO INTERVIEW..
NO CHANCE, BOZOS!
I GOT ORDERS... NOBODY TALKS TO HIM TILL HE'S JUMPED!
ISN'T IT THRILLING... ALL THE LOW-LIFE TYPES, I MEAN!
THEY SHOULD EVERY ONE DROP DEAD!
MOMMY-- DADDY-- LOOK--
--HE'S DOING IT..!
BUT THAT'S NOT "DEVIL" DAYRE...
R-RRROOAR
2


...IT'S THE BATMAN!
AND HE'S NOT GONNA MAKE IT!
HE'S FALLING INTO THE RIVER!
WHOOOSSSHHH

LATER...
ANY LUCK?
NOT A SIGN OF HIM, ONLY THIS!
WE GOTTA FIGURE HE'S A GONER!
I WONDER WHAT THE BATMAN WAS DOING IN DAYRE'S PLACE, ANYWAY?
I GOT A FEELING WE'LL NEVER KNOW!
TO ANSWER THE REPORTER'S QUESTION, WE MUST GO BACK A WEEK, TO GOTHAM CITY AND A VERY LAVISH BILLIARD PARLOR...
MR. CUE'S BILLIARDS
...WHERE BRUCE WAYNE IS AT PLAY WITH HIS MILLIONAIRE FRIENDS...
IF YOU MISS YOUR SHOT, BRUCE, YOU'LL OWE ME ANOTHER THOUSAND!
TO SAY NOTHING OF THE HUNDRED AN HOUR IT'S COSTING US TO USE THE TABLE!
HI! AIN'T YOU BRUCE WAYNE?
YES-- I DON'T BELIEVE I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE, THOUGH!
NAW, WE AIN'T MET!
BUT WITH THE DOUGH I'LL BE GETTIN' FROM MY BIG JUMP, I'LL BE MOVING INTO YOUR INCOME BRACKET!
I'M AL DAYRE... MAYBE YOU HEARD OF ME AS "DEVIL" DAYRE!
AH, YES... THE MOTORCYCLE STUNT EXPERT!
THESE ARE M' BOYS... WHAT YOU CALL BODYGUARDS..
NOT THAT I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING
4

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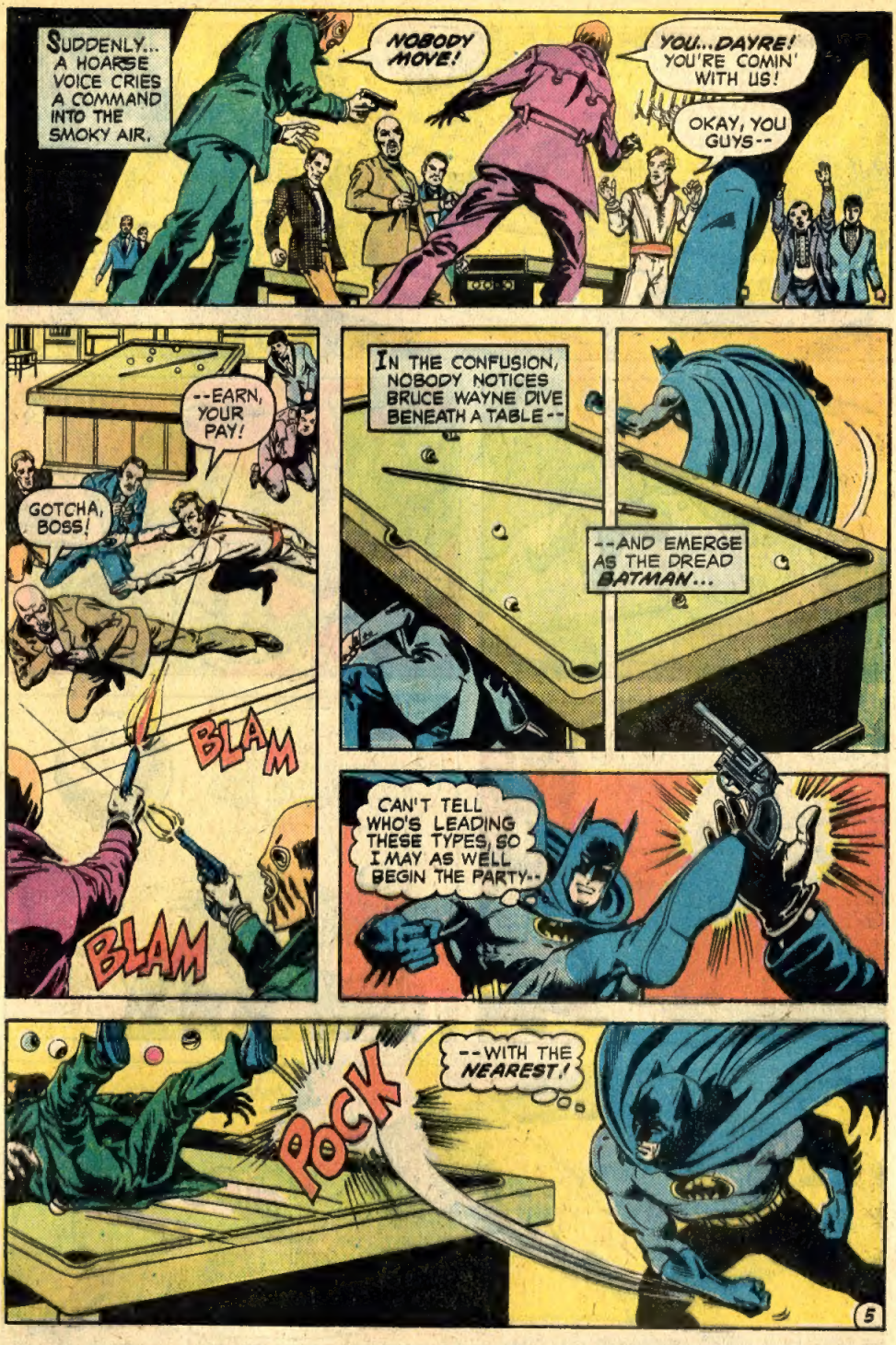

SUDDENLY... A HOARSE VOICE CRIES A COMMAND INTO THE SMOKY AIR.
NOBODY MOVE!
YOU...DAYRE! YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US!
OKAY, YOU GUYS--
--EARN, YOUR PAY!
GOTCHA, BOSS!
BLAM
BLAM
IN THE CONFUSION, NOBODY NOTICES BRUCE WAYNE DIVE BENEATH A TABLE--
--AND EMERGE AS THE DREAD BATMAN...
CAN'T TELL WHO'S LEADING THESE TYPES, SO I MAY AS WELL BEGIN THE PARTY--
POCK
--WITH THE NEAREST!

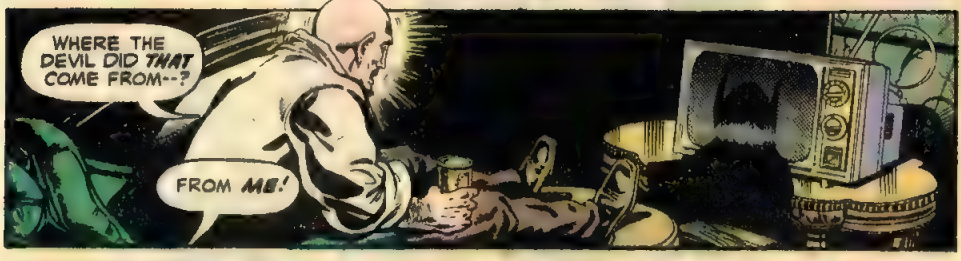
THE OTHER GUNMEN ARE SO BUSY TRYING TO SHOOT DAYRE'S MEN WITHOUT HITTING DAYRE--
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
--THEY HAVEN'T EVEN NOTICED--
CHOCK
--ME!
TOCK
LET ME GUESS!
YOU'RE GOING TO GET A JUMBO REP BY GUNNING THE BATMAN-- RIGHT?
Y-YEAH!
SOMETIMES I THINK YOU GUYS' DIALOGUE IS WRITTEN BY AN ECHO CHAMBER!
8
OWWW!
PLOCK
I WON'T INSULT ANYONE'S INTELLIGENCE BY MAKING ANY OF THE OBVIOUS REMARKS!
6

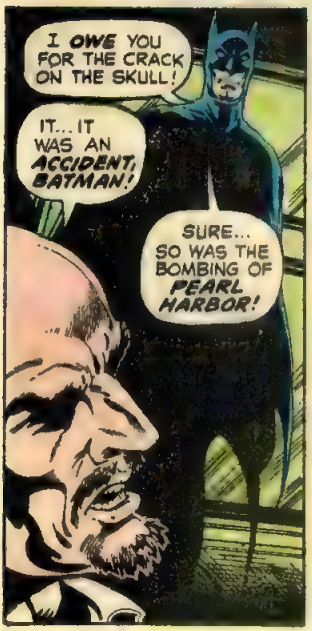
OOOO-KAY! NEXT COMES THE PART WHERE I ASK YOU WHO SENT YOU AND WHY!
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CARE TO SAVE ME THE TROUBLE--?
I AIN'T NO SNITCH!
YOU SURE?
ON S-SECOND THOUGHT... J-JUST CALL ME SNITCH!
THUNK
UNNGH!
I GOT DAYRE! LET'S SCRAM!
I...I'M SORRY, BATMAN! I FIGURED YOU NEEDED HELP!
I WAS AIMIN' FOR THE GUNSEL!
U-HUH...
THEY ESCAPED--
--WITH OUR BOSS!
WILL YOU GIVE CHASE, BATMAN?
BET ON IT, FRIEND!
7

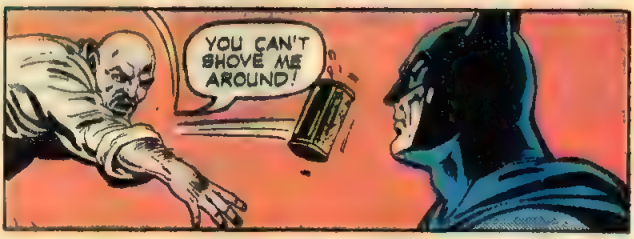
AS THE CITY'S CLOCKS TOLL MIDNIGHT, IN A LOW-RENT HOTEL...
RAY
HOTEL

...JOHNNY'S GUESTS TONIGHT INCLUDE CHARO--
THAT KOOTCHIE-KOOTCHIE KID IS SOME SWELL HONEY...

EH--?


WHERE THE DEVIL DID THAT COME FROM--?
FROM ME!


I OWE YOU FOR THE CRACK ON THE SKULL!
IT... IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, BATMAN!
SURE... SO WAS THE BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR!


YOU CAN'T SHOVE ME AROUND!

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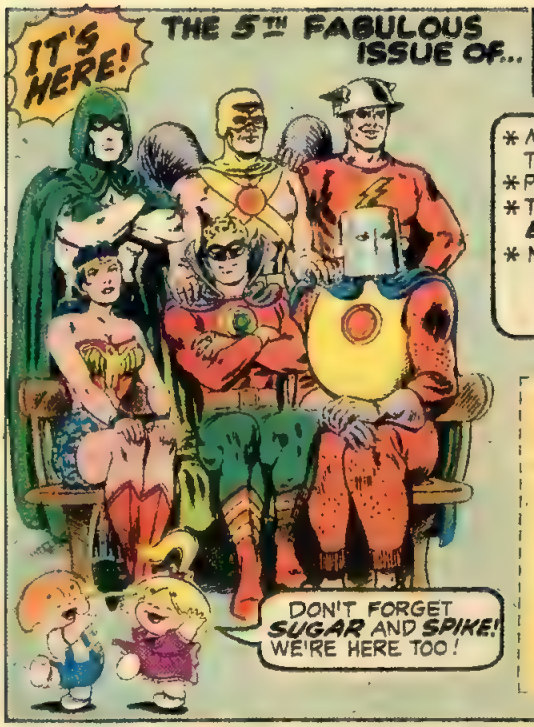

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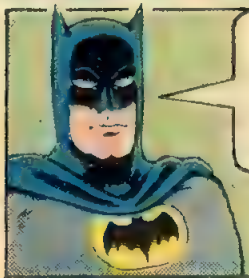

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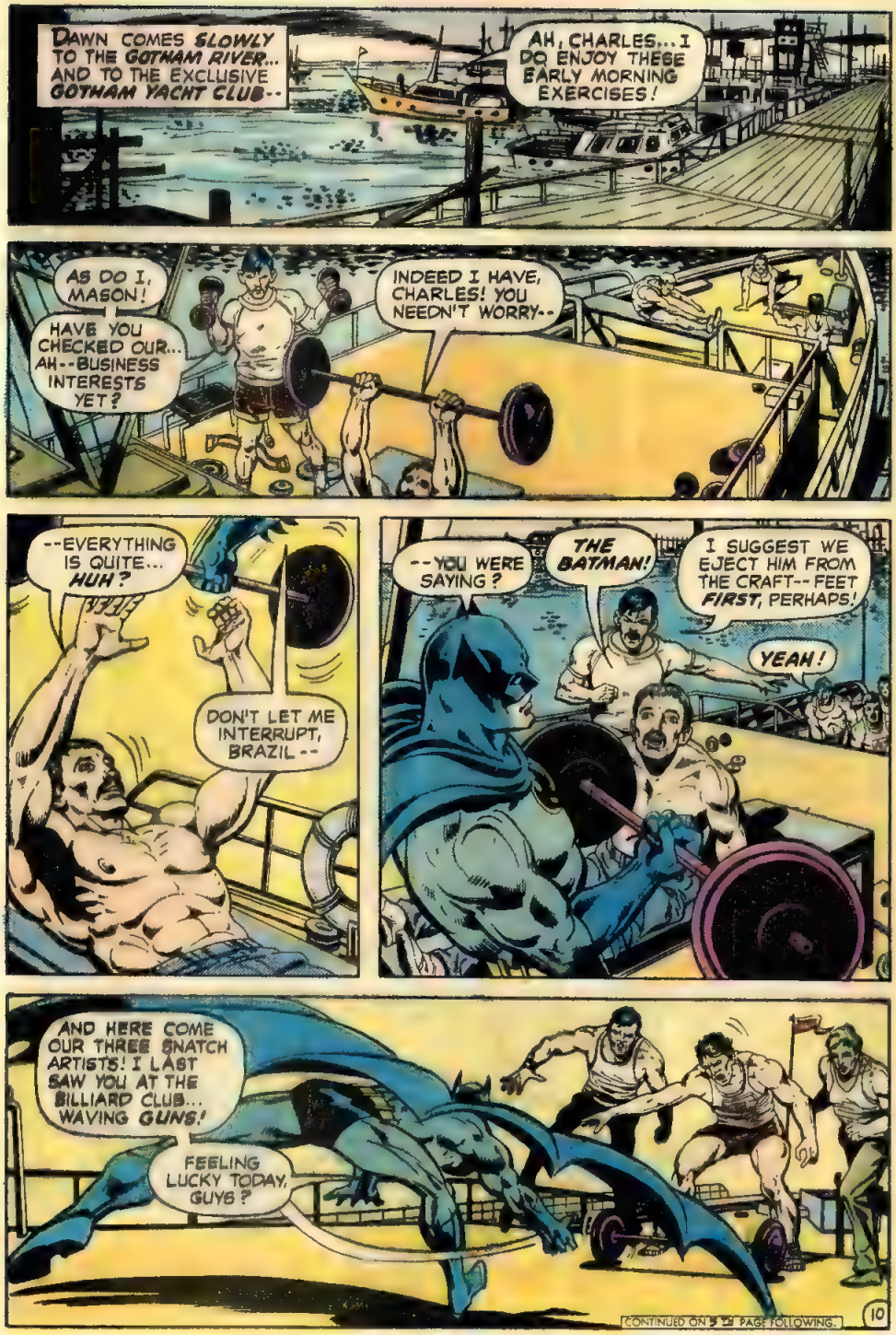
THE CREW THAT GRABBED DAYRE HAD TO KNOW WHERE HE'D BE! THERE HAD TO BE AN INSIDE MAN!
AND SINCE YOU CLOBBERED ME, I'M ELECTING YOU FOR THE POSITION...
...UNLESS YOU CONVINCE ME OTHERWISE!
NAW...YOU PEGGED IT--
--THEY PAID ME FIVE BIGGIES TO FINGER DAYRE...
WHICH I WAS GLAD TO DO, 'CAUSE HE'S A TURKEY!
WHO PAID YOU?
DUDE CALLED MASON BRAZIL!
HE HANGS OUT AT--
I CAN FIND HIM!
AS FOR YOU...PAY A CALL ON YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE PRECINCT--OR I'LL BE CALLING ON YOU!


DAWN COMES SLOWLY TO THE GOTHAM RIVER... AND TO THE EXCLUSIVE GOTHAM YACHT CLUB--
AH, CHARLES... I DO ENJOY THESE EARLY MORNING EXERCISES!
AS DO I, MASON!
HAVE YOU CHECKED OUR... AH--BUSINESS INTERESTS YET?
INDEED I HAVE, CHARLES! YOU NEEDN'T WORRY--
--EVERYTHING IS QUITE... HUH?
DON'T LET ME INTERRUPT, BRAZIL--
--YOU WERE SAYING?
THE BATMAN!
I SUGGEST WE EJECT HIM FROM THE CRAFT-- FEET FIRST, PERHAPS!
YEAH!
AND HERE COME OUR THREE SNATCH ARTISTS! I LAST SAW YOU AT THE BILLIARD CLUB... WAVING GUNS!
FEELING LUCKY TODAY, GUYS?
CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING.
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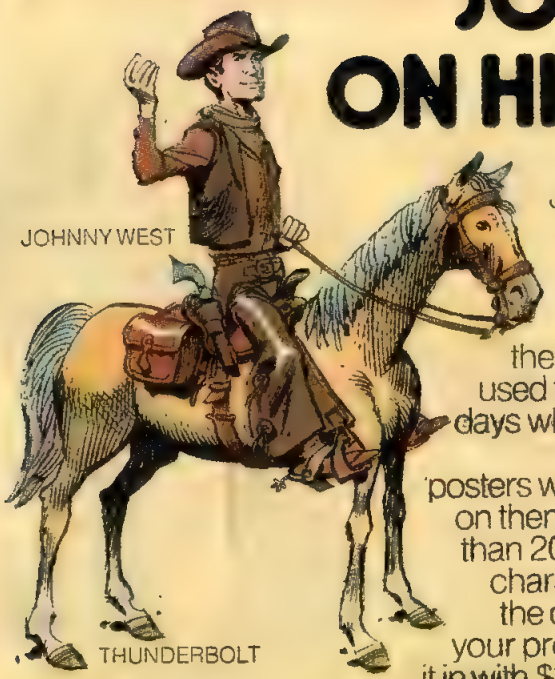

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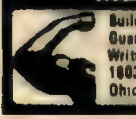

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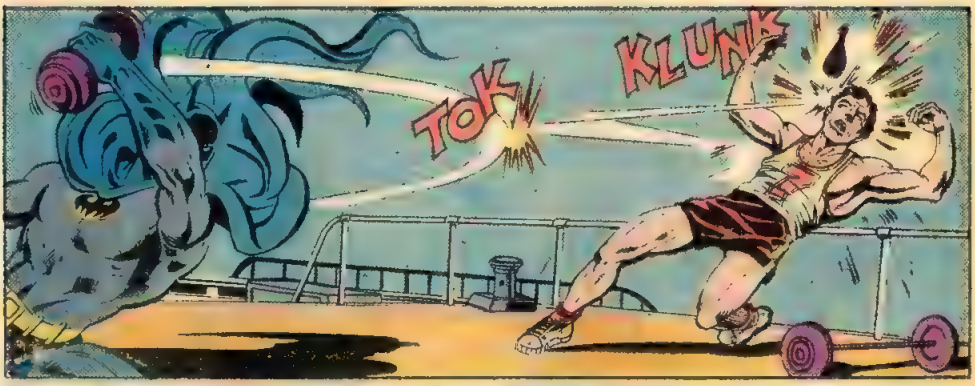
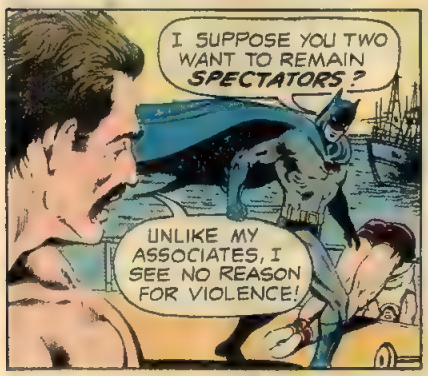
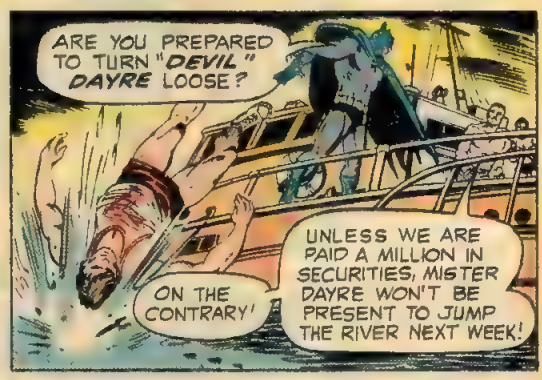
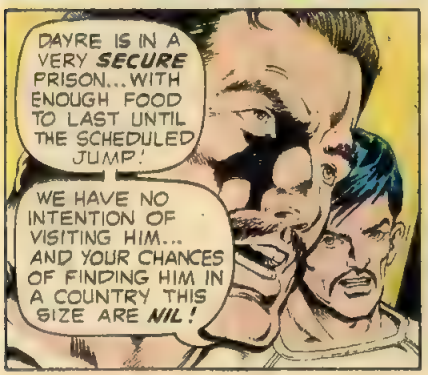
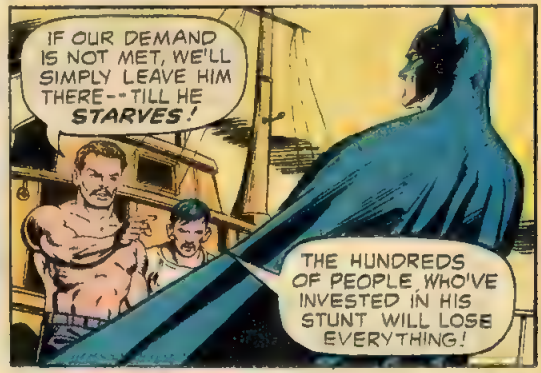
OWWWW!
AND WHILE SONNY BOY NURSES HIS HURT SHINS, HIS PALS WILL HASSLE THE BATMAN--?
FAT CHANCE, SNAKES!
SP-LAASH
I GUESS A LITTLE MORE POLLUTION WON'T HURT THE RIVER!
WELL, WELL! SONNY BOY RETURNS TO THE FRAY, STILL DETERMINED TO EARN HIS THUG MERIT BADGE!
BATMAN--YOU'RE GONNA BE WEARIN' THIS BLACKJACK IN YOUR TEETH!
THERE DOES SEEM TO BE AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF FLYING OBJECTS CONNECTED WITH YOU CREEPS...
BILLIARD BALLS... BEER CANS...NOW, A BLACKJACK!

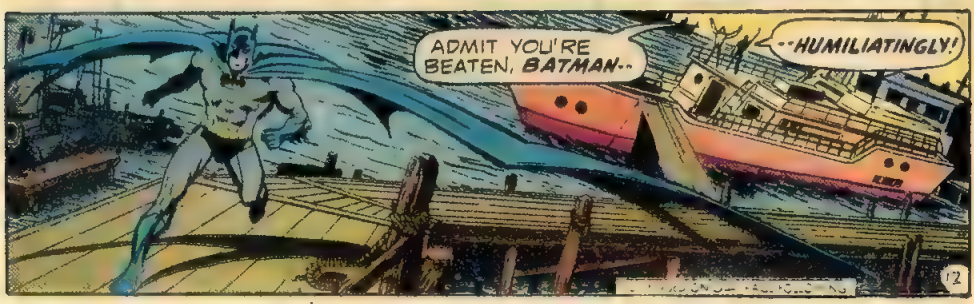

TOK
KLUNK


I SUPPOSE YOU TWO WANT TO REMAIN SPECTATORS?
UNLIKE MY ASSOCIATES, I SEE NO REASON FOR VIOLENCE!


ARE YOU PREPARED TO TURN "DEVIL" DAYRE LOOSE?
ON THE CONTRARY!
UNLESS WE ARE PAID A MILLION IN SECURITIES, MISTER DAYRE WON'T BE PRESENT TO JUMP THE RIVER NEXT WEEK!


DAYRE IS IN A VERY SECURE PRISON... WITH ENOUGH FOOD TO LAST UNTIL THE SCHEDULED JUMP!
WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF VISITING HIM... AND YOUR CHANCES OF FINDING HIM IN A COUNTRY THIS SIZE ARE NIL!


IF OUR DEMAND IS NOT MET, WE'LL SIMPLY LEAVE HIM THERE--TILL HE STARVES!
THE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO'VE INVESTED IN HIS STUNT WILL LOSE EVERYTHING!


ADMIT YOU'RE BEATEN, BATMAN--
--HUMILIATINGLY!

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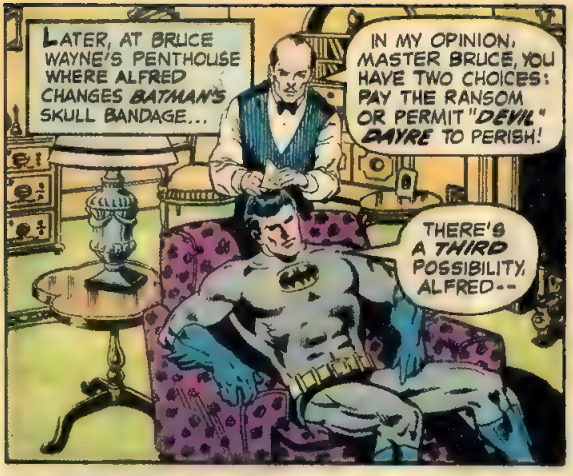
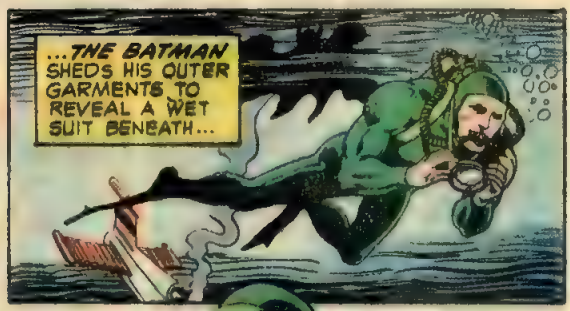
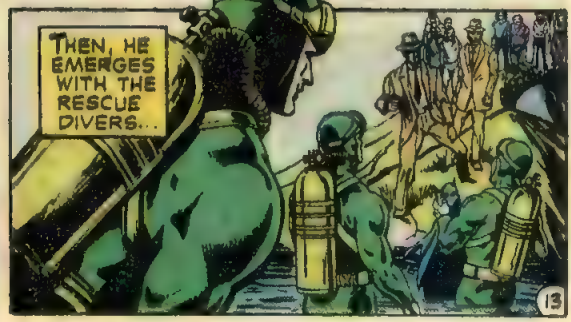

LATER, AT BRUCE WAYNE'S PENTHOUSE WHERE ALFRED CHANGES BATMAN'S SKULL BANDAGE...
IN MY OPINION, MASTER BRUCE, YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES: PAY THE RANSOM OR PERMIT "DEVIL" DAYRE TO PERISH!
THERE'S A THIRD POSSIBILITY, ALFRED--

--RISKY, BUT I'D PAY HEAVY DUES TO WIPE THE SMIRK FROM BRAZIL'S FACE!
THE MOTORCYCLE JUMP WILL OCCUR...
...AND I'LL DO THE JUMPING!

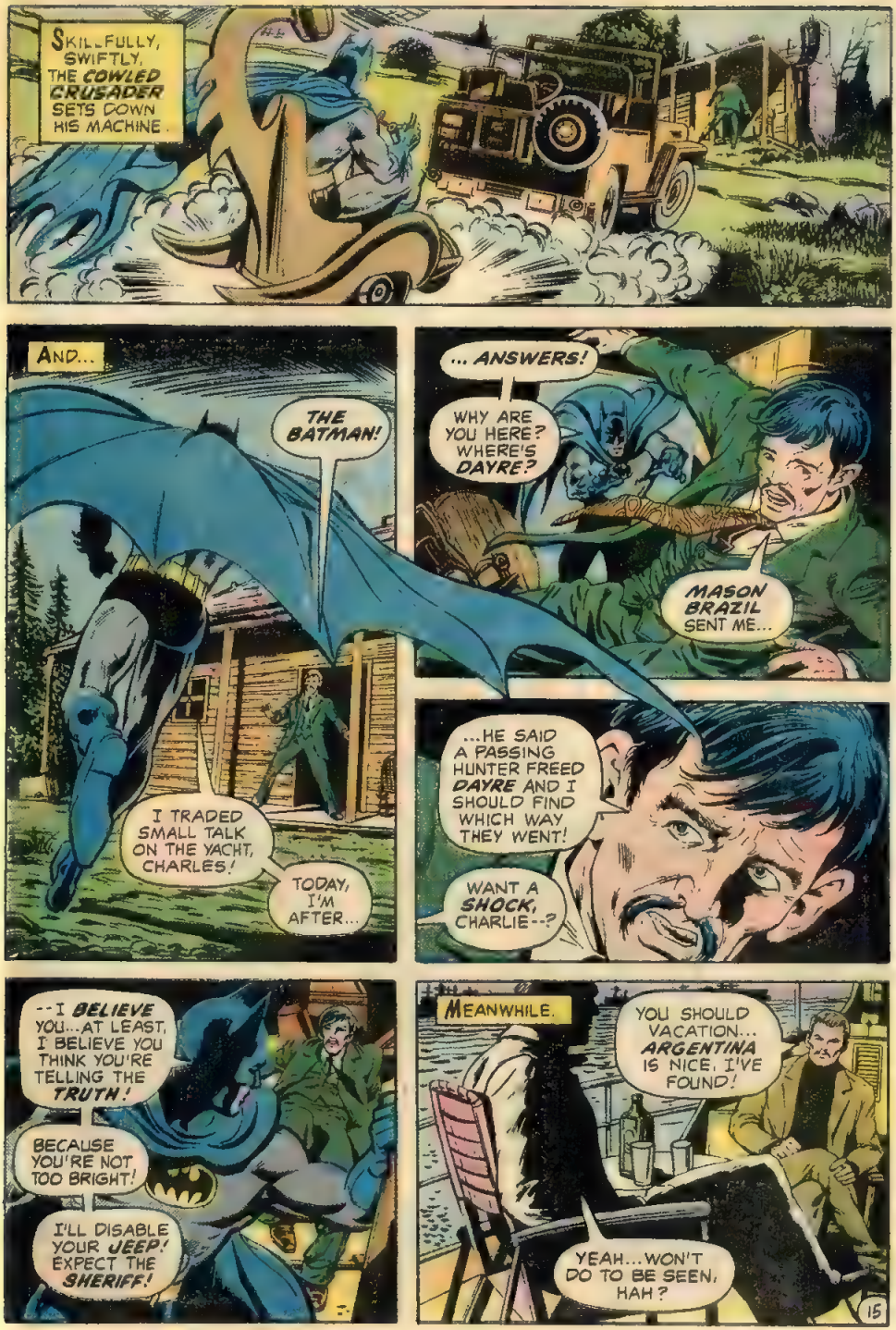
THUS IT HAPPENED AS WE HAVE SEEN...WITH TRAGIC RESULTS--?
DEVIL DAYRE
R-RRROOAR

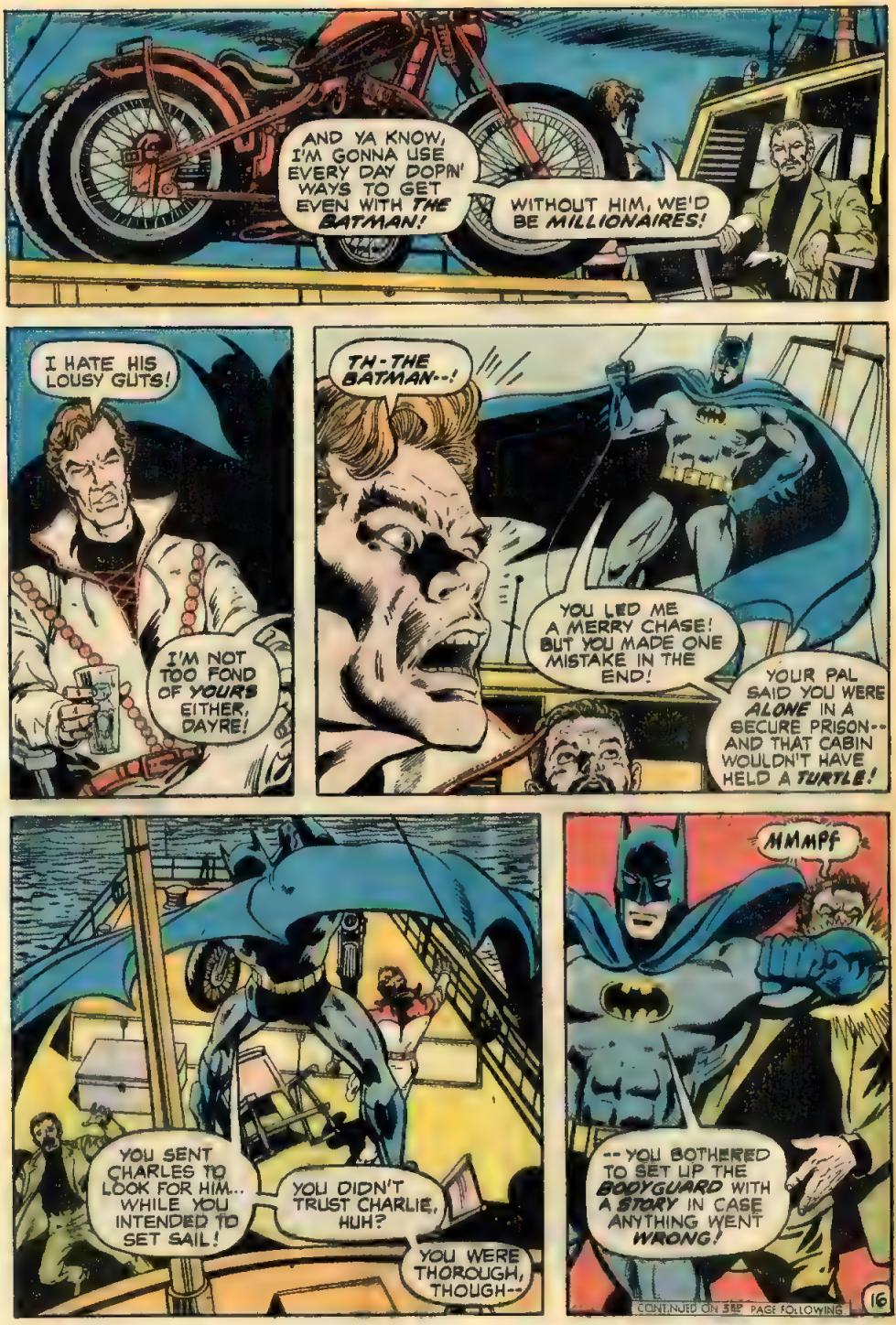
NO! FOR THE INSTANT THE CYCLE HITS THE WATER...
WHOOOOSSSHHH


...THE BATMAN SHEDS HIS OUTER GARMENTS TO REVEAL A WET SUIT BENEATH...


THEN, HE EMERGES WITH THE RESCUE DIVERS...

--AND, IN THE CONFUSION, RACES TO A DENSE THICKET AT THE FOOT OF THE CANYON WALL...
SPOT 'EM, ALFRED?
INDUBITABLY! THE CHARLES CHAP IS IN A JEEP SPEEDING TO THE FOOTHILLS--IN RATHER A HURRY!
YOU SHOULD EXPERIENCE NO DIFFICULTY OBSERVING HIM FROM THE AIR!
GOOD WORK! ALERT THE LAW--
--I'LL HAVE SOME CANDIDATES FOR THE LOCAL JAIL SOON!
AS ALWAYS, EH, MASTER BRUCE?
PRESENTLY...
THERE'S MY PIGEON...
...HEADING FOR THAT HUNTER'S CABIN!


SKILLFULLY, SWIFTLY, THE COWLED CRUSADER SETS DOWN HIS MACHINE.
AND...
THE BATMAN!
I TRADED SMALL TALK ON THE YACHT, CHARLES!
TODAY, I'M AFTER...
...ANSWERS!
WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHERE'S DAYRE?
MASON BRAZIL SENT ME...
...HE SAID A PASSING HUNTER FREED DAYRE AND I SHOULD FIND WHICH WAY THEY WENT!
WANT A SHOCK, CHARLIE--?
--I BELIEVE YOU...AT LEAST, I BELIEVE YOU THINK YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH!
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT TOO BRIGHT!
I'LL DISABLE YOUR JEEP! EXPECT THE SHERIFF!
MEANWHILE.
YOU SHOULD VACATION... ARGENTINA IS NICE, I'VE FOUND!
YEAH...WON'T DO TO BE SEEN, HAH?
15


AND YA KNOW, I'M GONNA USE EVERY DAY DOPIN' WAYS TO GET EVEN WITH THE BATMAN!
WITHOUT HIM, WE'D BE MILLIONAIRES!
I HATE HIS LOUSY GUTS!
I'M NOT TOO FOND OF YOURS EITHER, DAYRE!
TH-THE BATMAN--!
YOU LED ME A MERRY CHASE! BUT YOU MADE ONE MISTAKE IN THE END!
YOUR PAL SAID YOU WERE ALONE IN A SECURE PRISON-- AND THAT CABIN WOULDN'T HAVE HELD A TURTLE!
YOU SENT CHARLES TO LOOK FOR HIM... WHILE YOU INTENDED TO SET SAIL!
YOU DIDN'T TRUST CHARLIE, HUH?
YOU WERE THOROUGH, THOUGH--
MMMPF
-- YOU BOTHERED TO SET UP THE BODYGUARD WITH A STORY IN CASE ANYTHING WENT WRONG!
CONT.NUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING
16

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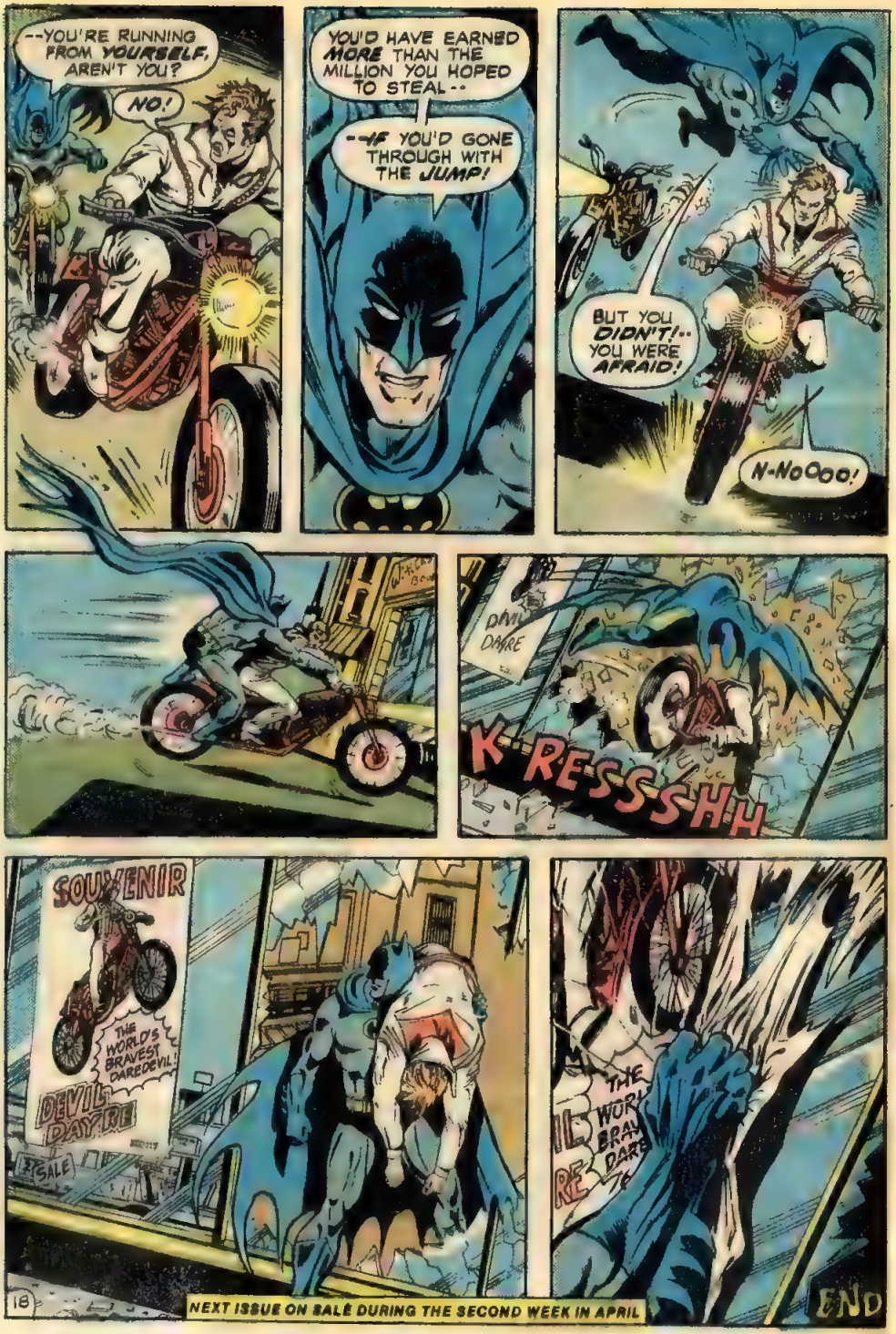
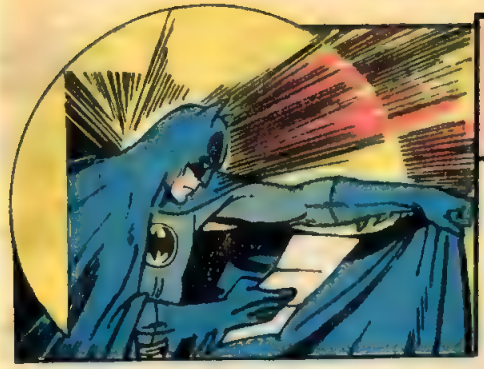
CAN'T YOU GET IT? YOU'RE WHIPPED, DAYRE... LIKE A WHIMPERING DOG!
NOT ME, CHUM! NOT ME... EVER!
RRR
RRR OOA AARR
"DEVIL"! YOU WON'T ABANDON ME?
RRRRR
YOU WON'T ABAN--
--AAAGH!
YOU CAN'T TRAVEL FAR ENOUGH...FAST ENOUGH, DAYRE!
RRR
YOU'RE NOT RUNNING FROM ME...OR THE LAW--
17


--YOU'RE RUNNING FROM YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU?
NO!
YOU'D HAVE EARNED MORE THAN THE MILLION YOU HOPED TO STEAL--
--IF YOU'D GONE THROUGH WITH THE JUMP!
BUT YOU DIDN'T!.. YOU WERE AFRAID!
N-NOOOO!
DEVIL DARE
K-RE-SSSH-H
SOUVENIR
THE WORLD'S BRAVEST DAREDEVIL!
DEVIL DARE
SALE
18
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN APRIL
END



LETTERS to the BATMAN

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019. S-1977

Dear Editor:

When I first heard of The **Joker's** latest return in #260, I figured he would just pop up with no explanation of how he had escaped. But I didn't reckon with the enterprising brain of Denny O'Neil! The jailbreak turned out to be the most important factor of "This One'll Kill You, Batman!" The giggling guards, **Batman's** downfall (or is that **fall down?**), and the intervention of **Two-Face** were all handled smoothly. And though the drugged coffee and its effects were just the slightest bit far out, it didn't spoil the story.

The art was a bit jerky looking in spots, but it was still fine. And by the way, I take it the other **Justice Leaguers** knew Dr. Hamish since Clark Kent and Oliver Queen were at his funeral. Correct?

SCOTT R. TAYLOR, Portland, Tex.

(Your reasoning's as sure as Death and Texas, er, Taxes, Scott, but our next correspondent offers another explanation!—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

Why was Oliver (**Green Arrow**) Queen in the funeral scene of "This One'll Kill You, Batman"? Was it because the **Caped Crusader** was "quivering" with laughter . . . or am I being "arrow-neous"?

KURT FOWLER, Jacksonville, Fla.

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Dear Editor:

My reaction to "This One'll Kill You, Batman": Terrific! Denny O'Neil whipped up another classic. **The Joker** was terrifying and **The Batman's** plight was sometimes funny, sometimes frightening and always interesting. I didn't think there was any new twist you could give a **Batman-Joker** story, but for the third time in two years, you have proved me wrong.

As for the Novick-Giordano art, it was superb—their best job so far. I don't care if Neal Adams **Never** does another Batman story Irv and Dick are terrific!

BOB RODI, Oak Brook, Ill.

(From this Rodi-rave, let's move on to a Wolf who cries "Boy"!—BR)

Dear Editor:

Boy, you should congratulate that "Youngman, Henny" O'Neil on a fine attempt at a **Batman-Joker** clash. (By the way, is he a part-time flute salesman? I can see him saying, "Take my FIFE, please!") "**This One'll Kill You, Batman**" was a great "gag" story . . . Boy, did I gag! . . . But as a **Batman** story I could have done "wit"-out it! **The Caped Crusader** is an avenging creature of the night, not a **Bombastic Buffoon** as he was portrayed in the tale. Please don't turn **Batman** into "jest" another "comic" hero.

KEN WOLF, Yorktown, N.Y.

(And now it's time for "The Quiet Voice of Reason"!—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

Every so often, a story goes beyond the limits of acceptable improbability and one hears **The Quiet Voice of Reason**. So it was with "This One'll Kill You, Batman!" Here I sat watching the great, grim **Batman** hysterically laughing himself to death, faced with the mind-boggling peril of **the Joker's** hackneyed witticisms. I heard The Voice, small but forceful, saying, "This is totally ridiculous!"

Lest we forget, **Batman** is a stern, somber figure of vengeance. He can make jokes, but he must never lose his dignity. The idea behind the **Joker** is that his clownish appearance makes a ghastly contrast with his murderous activity. We should've seen the **Joker** dragging **Batman** into this contrast with the **Caped Crusader** acted the perfect fool on the outside, realizing full well that his life was being torn from him. Our sense of his enormous danger and of his valiant efforts to struggle against it would maintain the character's dignity and turn the stuff of the farce—a laughing death— into that of horror.

Just to have Batman say he's dying and rush around under a deadline isn't enough! We've seen this before! We have to feel he's dying, be aware of each new level of pain, weakness, fear and frustration he reaches. As it is, we merely see the absurd outward symptoms, the laughing fits, while **Batman strives** against his doom with no more determination than on any other case. Since the underlying horrors are not sufficiently dramatized, the laughter and the jokes work against any serious intentions the story may have.

PETER SANDERSON, Milton, Mass.

(Just enough space to tell you that the Clown Prince of Crime meets Willie the Weeper in THE JOKER #2, on sale—you guessed it—April Fool's Day!—Bob Rozakis)

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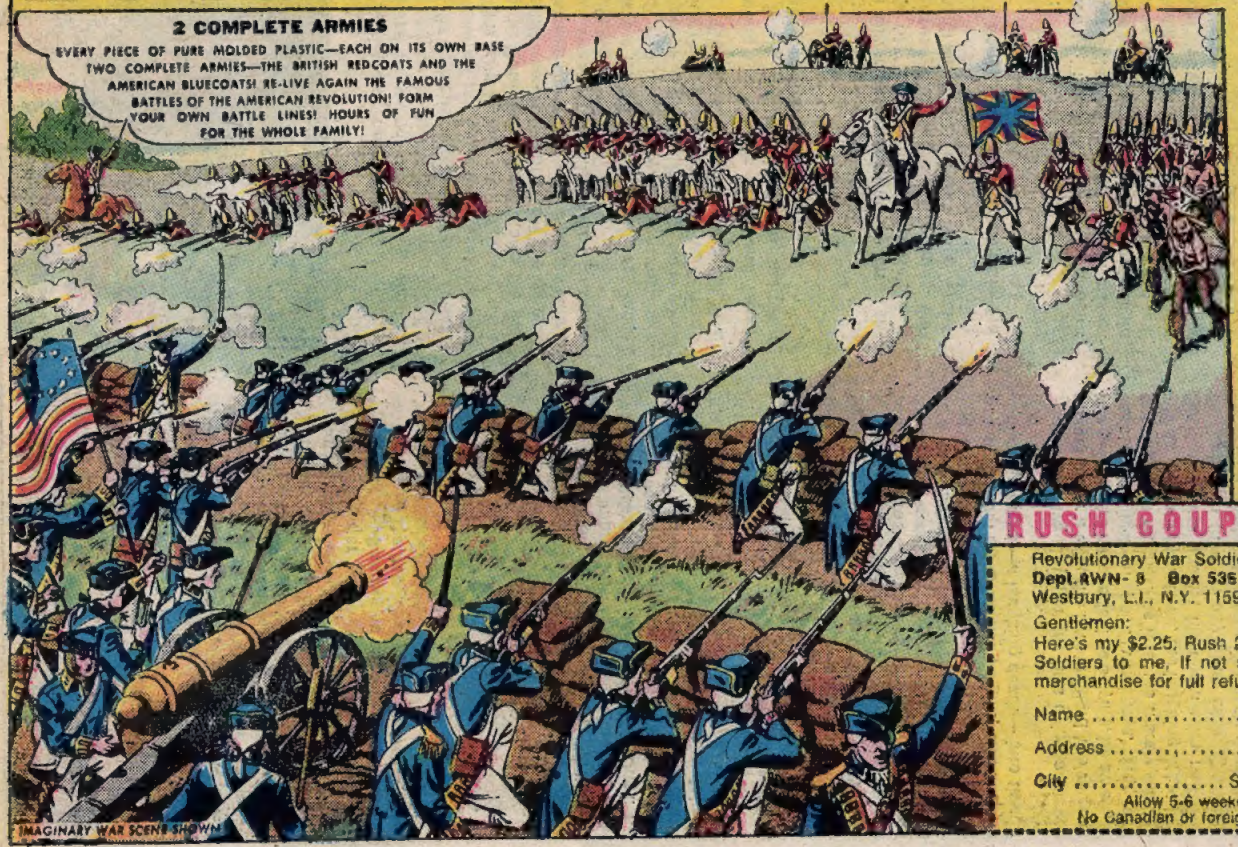

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